

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 21264 270309Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
DRC-01 /067 W  
-----082786 270324Z /64/17

R 240354Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8099  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 21264

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 21264 VICE 20763

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, TH  
SUBJ: NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SELECTS CONSTITUTION  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REF: BANGKOK 19900

1. FOLLOWING THE FIRST READING APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT  
CONSTITUTION, A THIRTY-FIVE MEMBER COMMITTEE FOR  
CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION (ALSO REFERRED TO  
AS THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) WAS ELECTED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP  
OF THE NLA. COMMITTEE IS DOMINATED BY GOVERNMENT BUREAU-  
CRATS, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN. FIFTEEN OF THE 35  
WERE ACTIVE OR RETIRED MILITARY, AT LEAST FIVE OF WHOM ARE  
IDENTIFIED WITH SO-CALLED "YOUNG TURK" FACTION. AN  
ADDITIONAL TN MEMBERS WERE CIVILIAN BUREAUCRATS, SEVEN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 21264 270309Z

WERE PARTY POLITICIANS, AND THREE ARE ACADEMICIANS OR  
TECHNOCRATS. THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MET FOR THE FIRST  
TIME JULY 18 AND ELECTED DEPUTY NLA SPEAKER LT. GEN.  
CHALOEMCHAI CHARUWAT AS CHAIRMAN AND LT. GEN. SAN  
CHITPATIMA AS SECRETARY. THEY ALSO AGREED TO MEET TWICE  
A WEEK FOR THE NEXT MONTH TO DEBATE THE MERITS AND CON-  
SIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION.

2. ALL THIRTY-FIVE MEMBERS ELECTED TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY WERE ON A 'MYSTERIOUS LIST' GIVEN TO ALL NLA MEMBERS. ORIGINS OF THE 'LIST' ARE UNKNOWN BUT PUBLISHED STATEMENTS OF NLA PRESIDENT ACM HARIN HONGSAKUN AND EMBOFF CONVERSATION WITH MEMBER OF NLA STAFF STRONGLY INDICATE LIST WAS THE WORK OF "YOUNG TURK" GROUP, LED BY LT. COL. PRACHAK SAWANGCHIT, ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.

3. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, MAJOR AREAS OF CONTROVERSY FOR THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ARE: A) POWER OF CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL POLICY COUNCIL ADM. SA-NGAT CHALOYU TO APPOINT SENATORS B) RATIO OF APPOINTED SENATORS TO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND C) WHETHER OR NOT PRIME MINISTER MUST BE ELECTED MEMBER OF LEGISLATURE. "YOUNG TURKS" OPPOSE GIVING SA-NGAT POWER TO APPOINT SENATORS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO TRY TO AMEND THAT SECTION OF THE DRAFT. THEY MIGHT ALSO SUPPORT REDUCING RATIO OF SENATORS TO ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN ORDER TO DECREASE INFLUENCE OF SA-NGAT. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT "YOUNG TURKS" MAY PREFER TO REJECT NEW DRAFT ENTIRELY AND INSTEAD ADOPT 1932 CONSTITUTION AS BASIS FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS.

4. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HAS NO LEGAL POWER TO RESTRICT DEBATE OR AMENDMENT OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION BY THE FULL NLA  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 21264 270309Z

MEMBERSHIP SO A LENGTHY DEBATE CAN BE EXPECTED BEFORE CONSTITUTION PASSED AT SECOND READING. DRAFT MUST PASS THREE READINGS, THE FINAL READING REQUIRING TWO-THIRDS APPROVAL, BEFORE RECEIVING NLA APPROVAL. O'DONOHUE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTITUTION, AGREEMENT DRAFT, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO21264  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780307-0528  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BANGKOK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780725/aaaaavck.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 83ce676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BANGKOK 19900  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1901288  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SELECTS CONSTITUTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
**TAGS:** PINT, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/83ce676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014